

## CLAIMS

1. A swab for collecting a specimen and depositing the specimen into a collection device comprising:
  - 5 (a) an elongate handle;
  - (b) a swab tip which is releasably attached to said handle, at a first end thereof; and
  - (c) a sleeve which slidably fits on said handle and is moveable such that it can be urged toward said first end of said handle to displace said swab tip off of said handle.
- 10 2. The swab of claim 1 wherein said handle is circular in cross-section and said sleeve is annular in cross-section.
- 15 3. The swab of claim 1 wherein said swab tip is an absorbent fabric material.
- 20 4. The swab of claim 3 wherein said swab tip is made from a strip of Dacron material.
- 25 5. The swab tip of claim 4 wherein said swab tip is secured to said handle only by friction created by winding said strip of Dacron material onto said handle while said strip is in tension.
6. A method of collecting a specimen with a swab and depositing a specimen into a collection device comprising:
  - 30 (a) providing a swab having a swab tip which is releasably attached to one end of an elongate handle;
  - (b) providing a sleeve which is slidable along said handle;
  - (c) collecting a specimen on said swab tip;

- (d) placing said swab such that said swab tip is adjacent to an opening in a collection device; and
- (e) urging said sleeve along said handle and against said swab tip to displace said swab tip from said handle and into said collection device.

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